

Southern Asia Studies Programme at Concordia University

What would I be studying in Southern Asia Studies?

You would be taking courses in Religion, History, Political Science and other disciplines which help you to understand the customs, social organization, ideas, historical experiences and present-day conditions of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and their neighbours.

Why is Southern Asia important to us?

The countries of Southern Asia have one-fifth of the world's total population and share the world's oldest living civilization. When you learn about Southern Asia you are learning about Hinduism and Islam, and also about the traditions of communities which practice Buddhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism, Sikhism, Judaism and Christianity. People who come from this region, or whose great-grandparents did, are an important part of Canada today, and their cultural expressions contribute to the richness of Canadian society.

How is the programme organized?

There are two courses which you have to take (and normally you enrol in them your first year). They are: Religious Traditions of the World (Religion 213) and History of India (History 261). These courses add up to nine credits.

Then you have to take at least one more advanced history course and two courses in Political Science and two in Religion, from a short list of available courses on Southern Asia. These make a total of 15 credits.

Now you choose enough other courses to total 18 credits (that usually means six one-term courses). You can pick any courses which are about Southern Asia from any department, although you must check with your academic adviser first to be sure you have selected courses which will count toward this programme. There are many to choose from, some in History, Political Science and Religion which you haven't already taken, and others in Cinema, Economics, Education, Linguistics, Music, and Sociology and Anthropology.

When you have done these, you will have completed your Major.

What can I do if this is too difficult for me to combine with a departmental Specialization or Major I need to take?

You have two choices:

A. You may just take courses on Southern Asia as electives whenever the courses you want most are available and can fit your schedule.

or

B. You can designate a Southern Asia Studies Minor, which means you only have to get 30 credits (10 one-term courses or equivalent) from at least three different departments. If you are a Minor in SAS then you will have some help in getting access to courses you want and the designation "Minor in Southern Asia Studies" will appear on your official transcript.

Summary of Programme Requirements

Major

- 9 credits History 261 and Religion 213
- 3 credits History 364, 365, 393 or 461
- 6 credits Political Science 340, 342, 431 or 434
- 6 credits Religion 313, 340 342, 347, 348, 350 or 364
- 18 credits any courses on Southern Asia (in any department) not already counted

Minor

- 9 credits History 261 and Religion 213
- 6 credits from the following: Economics 311, 312, 319 History 364, 365, 393, 461 Political Science 340, 342, 431, 434
- 6 credits from the following:
 Cinema 335
 English 361
 Linguistics 330
 Religion 313, 340 342, 347, 348, 350, 364, 383 385

Other courses may be substituted for many of the above with the programme adviser's permission.

How do I join the programme?

New students:

Choose Southern Asia studies on your Concordia application form as your Major or Minor.

Current students:

Apply to add Southern Asia Studies as your Major or Minor.

For more information, contact:

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